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4. Some Problems of Sidereal Astronomy (Russell)
5. Refractories (Washburn)
6. Industrial Research (Jewett)
7. Scientific Abstracts (Fulcher)

Moved: That Mr. C. P. Townsend be elected a member of the Patent Office Committee.

(*Adopted.*)

Moved: That Mr. James R. MacColl be elected a member of the Advisory Committee of the Industrial Research Section.

(*Adopted.*)

Moved: That the resignation of Mr. W. F. Durand as Scientific Attaché to the American Embassy at Paris, in charge of the Research Information Service in France, be accepted with regret and that the National Research Council express appreciation of the admirable work which he has done and convey its thanks to him. (*Adopted.*)

Moved: That the resignation of Mr. Edgar Buckingham as Associate Scientific Attaché at Rome, and technical assistant with the Research Information Service in Italy, be accepted with regret and that a vote of thanks be extended to him for the work which he has rendered in this service. (*Adopted.*)

Moved: That the resignation of Mr. Charles E. Mendenhall as Vice-Chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy and Geophysics be accepted with regret; and that the Council express to him its appreciation of the valuable services which he has rendered. (*Adopted.*)

Moved: That Mr. A. O. Leuschner be elected Acting Chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics, Astronomy and Geophysics. (*Adopted.*)

Moved: That the resignation of Mr. John Johnston be accepted with regret and that the Chairman be requested to express to him the great appreciation of the work which he has done for the National Research Council, and that the acceptance of this resignation be effective when his successor is appointed. (*Adopted.*)

Moved: That the transportation expenses of the members of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology attending the first meeting of the Division, to be held in Washington March 21 and 22, be met by the Council, as a means of assuring a full attendance at this initial meeting; and that the Interim Committee be authorized to make arrangements for the payment of expenses of members attending the initial meetings of other Divisions. (*Adopted.*)

Upon the request of Mr. Merriam the Chairman presented the following resolution:

Moved: That the sum of \$500 be set aside for general maintenance of the Division of Educational Relations from the present date to June 30, 1919. (*Adopted.*)

The Treasurer, Mr. Cross, presented the financial statement for the month ending February 28, 1919, which was accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

PAUL BROCKETT, *Assistant Secretary.*

ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

At the organizing meeting of the International Research Council held in Paris in November 1918, it was decided to establish an International Astronomical Union, to continue and extend the work formerly conducted by such international astronomical organizations as the committee of the Carte du Ciel, the International Union for Co-operation in Solar Research, and similar bodies

less formally constituted which dealt with various questions relating to astronomy and its applications. The International Research Council adopted a resolution requesting the National Academy of Sciences, or the corresponding organization in each of the countries represented, to take the initiative in organizing the section to represent that country in the International Astronomical Union. The tentative plan of organization of the American Section of the Astronomical Union, as approved by the President of the National Academy of Sciences, involved the representation of the various interests concerned as given below.

Upon the call of Dr. George E. Hale, acting for the National Academy of Sciences, the organization meeting for the American Section of the proposed Astronomical Union was held in the office of the National Research Council, Washington, D. C., March 8, 1919. The delegates who had been appointed by the presidents of the respective societies, or by the government, were as follows:

National Academy of Sciences, 5.—H. D. Curtis acting for W. W. Campbell, G. E. Hale, A. A. Michelson, F. R. Moulton, Frank Schlesinger.

American Astronomical Society, 10.—C. G. Abbot, S. I. Bailey, E. W. Brown, E. B. Frost, A. O. Leuschner, S. A. Mitchell, W. J. Humphreys, H. N. Russell, Joel Stebbins, (absent, J. F. Hayford).

American Mathematical Society, 3.—Frank Morley, (others to be appointed).*

American Physical Society, 3.—Henry Crew, (absent, J. S. Ames, Theodore Lyman).

U. S. Naval Observatory, 1.—J. A. Hoogewerff, accompanied by W. S. Eichelberger, Asaph Hall, F. B. Littell.

U. S. Coast Survey, 1.—William Bowie.

The meeting organized by appointing Mr. Hale as chairman and Mr. Stebbins secretary. There followed a general discussion of the present international situation of science, and it was agreed that the Union should take the place of previous international bodies in astronomy.

It was voted that the organization of the Section should be considered temporary until after the proposed conference in Paris in July 1919.

The Section voted that the chair appoint a Committee on Committees, to act temporarily as an Executive Committee, which should consider the general matter of business, appoint all committees, and add additional members to the Section. Appointed: W. W. Campbell, chairman; C. G. Abbot, E. W. Brown, Frank Schlesinger, Joel Stebbins, secretary.

The Committee added the following to the membership of the Section: W. S. Adams, R. G. Aitken, E. E. Barnard, L. A. Bauer, Benjamin Boss, W. S. Eichelberger, W. J. Hussey, V. M. Slipher.

In regard to membership of enemy nations in the Union, the Section voted to adopt as representing the sentiments of the meeting the Declaration of the Interallied Conference on International Scientific Relations, held at the Royal Society in London on October 9 to 11, 1918. (See appendix to this report).

* The following representatives have since been nominated: George David Birkhoff, W. D. MacMillan, R. S. Woodward.

In regard to the admission of neutral nations to the Union, the Section voted that it be the sense of the meeting that nations which had been neutral in the war should be admitted into the International Astronomical Union on the conclusion of peace.

Mr. Schlesinger outlined the kind of astronomical work that requires international coöperation:

First: Work too extensive to be undertaken except by international coöperation; the *Carte du Ciel*, for example; or the plan of Selected Areas.

Second: Undertakings in which there is a geographical necessity for international coöperation. Variation of latitude; longitudes; variable stars; continuous observation of solar phenomena, etc.

Third: Matters of convention. Uniformity of nomenclature, notation and units. Examples, unit for stellar distances (four now in use); classification of spectra; use of probable or mean error or of average deviation; notation for celestial mechanics; notation for the reduction of photographic plates, etc.

Fourth: The avoidance of duplication. Calculations for the national Almanacs and for special ephemerides, such as comets, asteroids, and variable stars; astronomical abstracts; and news of new comets, variable stars, novae, asteroids and the like.

The Section discussed the various fields in astronomy in which committees should be formed to make report at another meeting of the Section, which would give instructions to the delegates to the proposed Paris conference. The following committees were authorized by the Section. The Executive Committee later made the appointments:

Committee on the Variation of Latitude: F. B. Littell, chairman; A. O. Leuschner, Frank Schlesinger. It was voted to ask the American Section of the International Geophysical Union to appoint a similar committee to confer and make a joint recommendation on the organization and method of handling the work on the variation of latitude.

Committee on Standards of Wave-Length: Henry Crew, chairman; W. S. Adams, Kevin Burns, W. W. Campbell, C. E. St. John.

Committee on Solar Rotation: C. E. St. John, chairman; W. S. Adams, Frank Schlesinger.

Committee on Eclipses: S. A. Mitchell, chairman; E. E. Barnard, H. D. Curtis.

Committee on Stellar Classification: H. N. Russell, chairman; Miss Annie J. Cannon, R. H. Curtiss.

Committee on Asteroids and Comets: A. O. Leuschner, chairman; E. W. Brown, G. H. Peters.

Committee on Almanacs: W. S. Eichelberger, chairman; E. W. Brown, R. H. Tucker.

Committee on Radial velocities: W. W. Campbell, chairman; W. S. Adams, J. S. Plaskett.

Committee on Double Stars: R. G. Aitken, chairman; Eric Doolittle, W. J. Hussey.

Committee on Notation, Units, and Economy of Publication: W. J. Humphreys, chairman; E. B. Frost, A. O. Leuschner.

Committee on Meridian Astronomy: Benjamin Boss, chairman; F. B. Littell, Frank Schlesinger.

Committee on Abstracts and Bibliographies: F. E. Fowle, chairman; H. D. Curtis, G. S. Fulcher.

Committee on Research Surveys: G. E. Hale, chairman; F. R. Moulton, Harlow Shapley.

Committee on Stellar Photometry: F. H. Seares, chairman; S. I. Bailey, F. C. Jordan, J. A. Parkhurst, Joel Stebbins.

Committee on Wireless Determination of Longitude: J. A. Hoogewerff, chairman; W. W. Campbell, J. J. Carty. This committee was requested to study the feasibility of deter-

minations of longitude by wireless at widely distributed stations, and report on what seems to be the proper time and method for such undertakings.

Committee on Solar Radiation: Mr. C. G. Abbott was asked to prepare a report on Solar Radiation.

Committee on the Spectroheliograph: The Mount Wilson Solar Observatory was asked to prepare a report on work with the Spectroheliograph.

Committee on Reform of the Calendar: R. T. Crawford, chairman; W. W. Campbell, Harold Jacoby.

The question of delegates to the Paris meeting was left to the Executive Committee with power.

It was voted that the Section offer to act in astronomical matters as the agent of the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council.

Various other items of organization and scientific interest were discussed by the Section at the morning and afternoon sessions, and in the evening, without formal action.

JOEL STEBBINS, *Secretary.*

Declaration in regard to Enemy Nations

When more than four years ago the outbreak of war divided Europe into hostile camps men of science were still able to hope that the conclusion of peace would join at once the broken threads, and that the present enemies might then once more be able to meet in friendly conference, uniting their efforts to advance the interests of science; for ever since the revival of learning in the Middle Ages the prosecution of knowledge has formed a bond strong enough to resist the strain of national antagonism. And this bond was strengthened during the latter part of last century, when branches of science developed requiring for their study the co-operation of all the civilized nations of the world. International Associations and Conferences rapidly multiplied, and the friendly intercourse between the learned representatives of different countries grew more intimate, in spite of their political differences, which were admitted, but not insisted upon.

In former times war frequently interrupted the co-operation of individuals without destroying the mutual esteem based on the recognition of intellectual achievements; peace then soon effaced the scars of a strife that was ended. If to-day the representatives of the Scientific Academies of the Allied Nations are forced to declare that they will not be able to resume personal relations in scientific matters with their enemies until the Central Powers can be re-admitted into the concert of civilized nations, they do so with a full sense of responsibility, and they feel bound to record the reasons which have led them to this decision.

Civilization has imposed restrictions on the conduct of nations which are intended to serve the interests of humanity, and to maintain a high standard, of honour, such as the recognition of the sanctity of treaties—especially those designed to apply to a state of war—and the avoidance of unnecessary cruelties inflicted on civilians. In both these respects, the Central Powers have broken the ordinances of civilization, disregarding all conventions, and unbridling the worst passions which the ferocity of war engenders. War is necessarily full of cruelties; individual acts of barbarity cannot be avoided and have to be borne. It is not of these we speak, but of the organized horrors encouraged and initiated from above with the sole object of terrorizing unoffending communities. The wanton destruction of property, the murders and outrages on land and sea, the sinking of hospital ships, the insults and tortures inflicted on prisoners of war, have left a stain on the history of the guilty nations, which cannot be removed by mere compensation of the material damage inflicted. In order to restore the confidence without which no scientific intercourse can be fruitful, the Central Powers must renounce the political methods which have led to the atrocities that have shocked the civilized world.